

# Yorkshire MESMAC

## SAFEGUARDING OF CHILDREN POLICY



To be read in conjunction with:	Data Protection; Confidentiality; Workers Code of Conduct; Recruitment and Selection of Staff; Recruitment of Ex-Offenders; Training	
Also of relevance are:	Complaints, Comments & Compliments; Whistleblowing; Social Media Policy, Confidentiality Policy	
Training	<p>Staff will be trained on this policy and its use as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As a Priority Policy it is read &amp; signed for understanding at induction and annually thereafter.</li> <li>• At induction the appropriate level of safeguarding training is considered and then provided based on staff role (see training policy). All roles minimum training is Basic Awareness of Child/Adult Safeguarding.</li> <li>• Training is renewed every 3 years</li> <li>• Training is recorded on the staff training matrix and reviewed during supervision and through Learning and Development plans.</li> </ul>	
Date for review:		February 2022
Priority Policy?		Yes
Seen by Staff subgroup		15 <sup>th</sup> December 2020
Seen by GC		26 <sup>th</sup> January 2021
Agreed by BOT		16 <sup>th</sup> February 2021
Appendices:-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Child Protection Incident Reporting Form</li> <li>ii. Useful contacts and support organisations</li> <li>iii. Definitions of Abuse</li> </ul>	

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Company Number: 2958336      Charity Number: 1040407



Yorkshire MESMAC Group of Services is fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children, young people and adults. It recognises its responsibility to take all reasonable steps to promote safe practice and to protect children, young people and adults from harm, abuse and exploitation. Yorkshire MESMAC Group of Services acknowledges its duty to act appropriately to any allegations, reports or suspicions of abuse.

Paid staff and volunteers (hereafter referred to as 'workers') will endeavour to work together to encourage the development of an ethos which embraces difference and diversity and respects the rights of children, young people and adults.

**Safeguarding takes precedence over any other policy or procedure.**

## **Safeguarding Children**

A child is defined as anyone who has not yet reached their 18th birthday.

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined as:

- protecting children from maltreatment;
- preventing impairment of children's health or development;
- ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care; and
- taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes.

### **1 Key principles of safeguarding**

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and for services to be effective they should be based on a clear understanding of the needs and views of children adopting a child-centred approach.

### **2 Implementation**

In implementing this safeguarding children and young people policy, Yorkshire MESMAC Group of Services (YM) will:

- Ensure that all workers understand their roles and responsibilities in respect of safeguarding to protect children and young people from harm, abuse, neglect and exploitation;
- Promote and prioritise the safety and wellbeing of children and young people
- Ensure that all workers understand their responsibility to work to the standards that are detailed in the organisation's Child Protection Procedures and work at all times towards maintaining high standards of practice. Where workers are concerned, they are to seek advice from their manager;
- Ensure that all workers are aware of Local Safeguarding Children's Board/partnerships (LSCB/Ps) interagency safeguarding procedures and are confident in how to work within these guidelines.

- Ensure that all workers understand their duty to report concerns that arise about a child or young person, or a worker's conduct towards a child/young person, to the organisation's Named Person for child protection and that support is provided to the individual/s who raise or disclose the concern;
- Ensure that the Named Person understands their responsibility to refer any child protection concerns to the statutory child protection agencies (i.e. Police and/or Children and Young People's Social Care);
- Ensure that any procedures relating to the conduct of workers are implemented in a consistent and equitable manner;
- Ensure safeguarding disclosures and incidents are considered in the wider social context of the child/young person's life i.e. being aware of relationships outside the family environment where abuse may take place; neighbourhoods, community spaces, schools and online e.g. peer to peer abuse.
- Provide appropriate learning opportunities for all workers to develop their skills and knowledge, to recognise, identify and respond to signs of abuse, neglect and other safeguarding concerns relating to children and young people
- Ensure that children and young people are enabled to express their ideas and views on a wide range of issues and will have access to the organisation's Complaints Procedure;
- Ensure that parents/carers are encouraged to be involved in the work of the organisation where appropriate and, when requested, have access to all guidelines and procedures;
- Endeavour to keep up-to-date with national developments relating to the welfare and protection of children and young people.

### **3 Introduction**

These procedures have been designed to ensure the welfare and protection of any children – defined as anyone who has not yet reached their 18th birthday – who accesses Yorkshire MESMAC services. The procedures recognise that child protection can be an emotive subject and understand that some workers may find it a challenging area. However, it is important that staff and volunteers respond appropriately to child protection incidents and are aware of their responsibilities. YM is committed to the belief that protecting children and young people is everybody's responsibility and that these guidelines will enable all workers and volunteers to act appropriately to any concerns that arise in respect of a child/young person.

YM is committed to safer recruitment procedures (see Recruitment & Selection of Staff and Recruitment of Ex-offenders policies ).

#### **4 Recognising the Signs and Symptoms of Abuse**

Abuse is defined as a form of maltreatment of a child. The forms of abuse are defined under the umbrella headings of Physical Abuse, Emotional Abuse, Sexual Abuse and Neglect. An additional appendix of the full revised definitions as outlined in Working Together to Safeguard Children (2015) is outlined in Appendix 3. YM requires all staff and volunteers to familiarise themselves with these definitions and symptoms.

YM will ensure that all staff members whether paid or unpaid, undertake training to gain a basic awareness of the signs and symptoms of child abuse and of the LSCB/P's interagency safeguarding procedures.

Staff should be aware of and be able to respond appropriately to any:

- significant changes in children's behaviour;
- deterioration in their general well-being;
- unexplained bruising, marks or signs of possible abuse;
- signs of neglect;
- comments children make which give cause for concern.

#### **5 Concerns for a child/young person's safety**

Concerns for a child/young person's safety may come to light in one of the following ways:

- a child or young person alleges that abuse has taken place or that they feel unsafe;
- a third party or anonymous allegation is received;
- a child or young person's appearance, behaviour, play, drawing or statements cause suspicion of abuse and/or neglect;
- a child or young person reports an incident(s) of alleged abuse which occurred some time ago;
- a report is made regarding the serious misconduct of a worker towards a child or young person.

#### **6 Named Person(s) for Child Protection**

YM has appointed individuals who are responsible for dealing with any child protection concerns. In their absence, deputy(s) will be available for workers to consult with wherever possible.

When no named person is available the worker should carry out the policy and a report should be made to the appropriate person in the relevant area. (See Appendix 2).

## The Named Persons for Child Protection within YM are:

Designated Reporting Officer	Tom Doyle	Chief Executive	Work: 0113 244 4209 Mobile: 07771 931 421 Emergency contact: as above
Deputy	Ellen Hill	Operations Manager - HR	Work: 0113 244 4209 Mobile: 07738 489 893 Emergency contact: 07956 021 783
Deputy	Paul Storey	Operations Manager - Technical	Work: 01482 291 190 Mobile: 07468 883 084 Emergency contact: 07415 534 345

The role and responsibilities of the Named Person(s) are:

- To ensure that all staff and volunteers are aware of what they should do and who they should go to if they are concerned that a child/young person may be subject to abuse or neglect.
- Ensure that any concerns about a child/young person are acted on, clearly recorded, referred on where necessary and followed up to ensure the issues are addressed.
- The Named Person(s) will record any reported incidents in relation to a child/young person or breach of safeguarding children and young people policies and procedures using the Child Protection Incident Reporting Form (**Appendix 1**). This will be kept in a secure place and its contents will be confidential.
- The Named Person will refer on as necessary any incidents in relation to a child/young person or breach of safeguarding children and young people policies and procedures to the appropriate safeguarding board or multiagency partnership as appropriate for the region the safeguarding incident occurred in.

## 7 Stages to Follow if you are Worried about a Child/ Reporting Procedures

YM recognises that it has a duty to act on reports or suspicions of abuse and believes that the safety of the child should override any doubts, hesitations, or other considerations (such as the potential to have a negative impact on professional relationships with a family). Every time worrying changes are observed in a child's or young person's behaviour, physical condition or appearance, or they make a disclosure staff will:

- Initially talk to a child/young person about what you are observing. It is okay to ask questions, for example: "I've noticed that you don't appear yourself today, is everything okay? Never use leading questions.
- Listen carefully to what the young person has to say and take it seriously.
- Never investigate or take sole responsibility for a situation where a child/young person talks about matters that may be indicative of abuse.
- Always explain to children and young people that any information they have given will have to be shared with others, if this indicates they and/or other children are at risk of harm;
- Notify the organisation's Named Person for Child Protection, or in their absence a Deputy named person. If you are concerned about a child's immediate wellbeing and are unable to reach the designated safeguarding leads then you should contact the local Safeguarding Board or emergency services if necessary.
- Record what was said immediately or at maximum three working days after any disclosure. The person who receives the allegation or has the concern should complete the **Child Protection Incident Reporting Form** and ensure it is signed and dated. Copies are available in the policy and on the server.
- This should be sealed in an envelope and given or scanned & emailed (with a read receipt request) to the Named Person based in Leeds who will store it in a folder kept for this purpose at YM's head office, 22/23 Blayds Yard, Leeds, LS1 4AD. If this is not appropriate or possible, the report should be given to a named Deputy or a member of the Board of Trustees who will do likewise.
- Due to the sensitive and confidential nature of these incidents you should not discuss the matter with members of the public or any other third party.
- Respect confidentiality and file documents securely.
- The Named Person(s) will take immediate action if there is a suspicion that a child has been abused or likely to be abused. In this situation the Named Person will contact the Police and/or Children and Young People's Social Care.
- If a referral is made direct to Children and Young People's Social Care this must be followed up in writing (including e mail) within 24 hrs.  
The decision-making process should be recorded on the YM CHILD PROTECTION INCIDENT REPORTING FORM and ensure a record of their signature is noted on the Report Form where indicated.
  - Co-operate with the authorities much as possible and;
  - Record details of what was discussed and outcomes within all telephone conversations, visits, meetings and interviews.
- All records and information will be kept, securely, only as long as is required.

- The Chair of the Board must be kept informed of the progress and outcome of any investigation. Personal details of the investigation and any persons relevant will only be disclosed where appropriate and relevant.
- NB Parents / carers will need to be informed about any referral to Children & Young people's Social Care unless to do so would place the child at an increased risk of harm.
- The Named Person can also seek 24 hour advice and clarity about a situation that is beginning to raise concern through the NSPCC National Child Protection Helpline on 0808 800 5000.

## **8 Managing Allegations made against a member of staff or volunteer**

An allegation may relate to a person who works with children who has:

- behaved in a way that has harmed a child, or may have harmed a child;
- possibly committed a criminal offence against or related to a child; or
- behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicates they may pose a risk of harm to children.

YM will ensure that any allegations made against a worker(s) will be dealt with swiftly and in accordance with these procedures:

- The worker must ensure that that the child is safe and away from the person against whom the allegation is made.
- The Named Person for child protection should be informed immediately. In the case of an allegation involving the Named Person, alternative arrangements should be sought to ensure that the matter is dealt with by an independent person (ordinarily, the Chair of the Board of Trustees).
- The Named Person should contact the Local Authority's designated officer or team of officers for the management and oversight of allegations for advice on how to proceed with the immediate situation. Outside of working hours, the Emergency Duty Team can give advice and/or in the event of an emergency situation arising, the Police should be contacted.
- The individual who first received/witnessed the concern should make a full written record of what was seen, heard and/or told immediately or at maximum three working days after observing the incident/receiving the report. It is important that the report is an accurate description. The Named Person (if appropriate) can support the worker during this process but must not complete the report for the worker. This report must be made available on request from the Police and/or Children and Young People's Social Care.

Regardless of whether a Police and/or Children and Young People's Social Care investigation follows, YM will ensure that an internal investigation takes place and consideration is given to the operation of disciplinary procedures. This may involve an immediate suspension and/or ultimate dismissal dependant on the nature of the incident. No front-line work will be undertaken by a staff member if they are under investigation.

## **9 Escalation**

YM believe that effectively working together depends on resolving disagreements to the satisfaction of workers and agencies, and a belief in a genuine partnership and joint working to safeguard children. The focus of this procedure is to ensure resolution and the continuation of good partnership working. Agencies should work to the principle of restoring relationships and resolving disagreements without the need for further escalation so that each agency is satisfied both, with the outcome for children and families and that their concerns have been listened to.

Disagreements could arise in a number of areas, but are most likely to arise around determining the level of need, roles and responsibilities, and the need for action and communication.

Problem resolution is an integral part of professional cooperation and joint working to safeguard children. Professional disagreement is only dysfunctional if not resolved in a constructive and timely fashion. Due to the nature of the work undertaken it is inevitable that there will be disagreements from time to time. Multi-agency debate and respectful challenge should be encouraged to impact positive outcomes for children.

At no time must professional disagreement undermine the safeguarding of a child. The child's welfare and safety must remain paramount throughout. For this reason, actions should be carried out as fast as possible.

Escalation is not a process; it should be a means to achieve an outcome within a reasonable timescale. It is therefore important that the person raising the escalation is clear in respect of what they are escalating, what they are seeking to achieve, what they feel the outcome should be and within what timescale they are seeking to achieve it. The timescale may need to be subject to negotiation and in line with the potential safeguarding issues.

### **Resolving Disagreements**

Most disagreements are likely to occur at the point of referral. Initial attempts should be taken to resolve the problem; the expectation should be to resolve difficulties at practitioner/case worker level between agencies.

When there is recognition that there is a disagreement over a significant issue, which impacts on the safety and welfare of a child, the staff member must identify explicitly what the problem is and have clarity about the nature of the disagreement and what they aim to achieve.

Where the staff member feels they do not have sufficient status or experience to challenge, they must seek guidance from their Safeguarding Lead.

If unresolved, the problem should be referred by the worker to their Safeguarding Lead who in turn is expected to discuss with their opposite number in the other agency.

A clear record must be kept at all stages by all parties to the disagreement. In particular this must include written confirmation between the parties about an agreed outcome of the disagreements and how any outstanding issues to be pursued.

The Local Safeguarding Partnership should have their own procedures in place for dealing with concerns within their own setting. On occasions where concerns need to be raised with another agency, practitioners should ensure this happens as soon as possible and that discussions are clearly recorded.

The Local Authority Children's Services Safeguarding Partnership will offer consultation and advice on cases and will intervene to help resolve issues if that is appropriate.

## **10 Management and supervision of staff / volunteers**

YM acknowledges the critical link between good quality, regular supervision and good outcomes for children, young people, families and adults at risk. This approach requires practitioners to continually reflect on their practice and seek support from line manager and safeguarding leads as appropriate and in line with YM's supervision policy and procedures. Supervision notes will be recorded and agreed by both parties.

YM is committed to the appropriate management and supervision of staff and/or volunteers working with children and or young people to ensure that appropriate lines of accountability are in place with respect to work with children and young people.

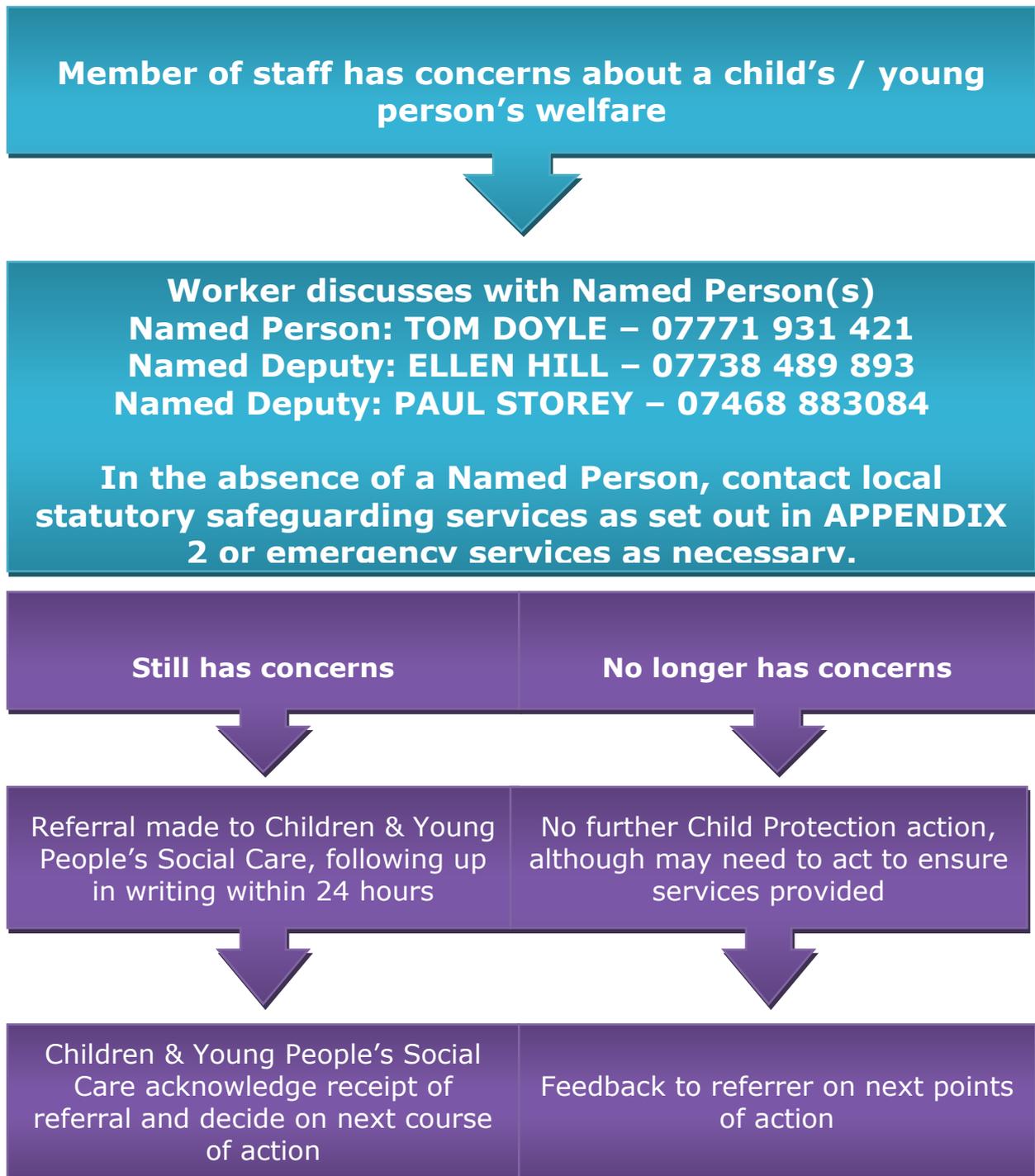
When a member of staff is involved in a child protection incident, this will be reviewed within supervision i.e. recordings, assessments, monitoring arrangements etc. and decisions relating to the level of involvement will be taken by the appropriate officer/member within YM.

When a member of staff is a member of a child protection core group, working with a child who is subject to a child protection plan, case management meetings and any additional appropriate support will be provided as necessary.

Supervisors will ensure that information about children is appropriately shared with other organisations and that they will be informed if work ceases with a child when other organisations are involved.

The Named Person dealing with the incident will speak with the worker who raised the concern within one week and discuss any support they may need.

## 11 Flow Chart



For Child Protection Incident Reporting Form **See APPENDIX 1.**

For Useful Contacts/Support Organisations re Child Protection, see **APPENDIX 2.**

## **APPENDIX 1 – CHILD PROTECTION INCIDENT REPORTING FORM**

### **YORKSHIRE MESMAC CHILD PROTECTION INCIDENT REPORTING FORM**

**1. Date of Incident:**

2. Person completing the Report Form:

3. Job Title:

4. Name and address of person reporting poor practice or potential abuse (If different from No. 2 above)

5. Details of Incident: (Be specific, include times, dates, location, details of any witnesses etc.)

6. Date incident reported to DESIGNATED REPORTING OFFICER:

7. Brief notes of discussion with DESIGNATED REPORTING OFFICER including any action/instructions agreed:

8. Action/Instructions Agreed: (Please include any details and contact numbers where appropriate).

• ***NB: Please attach any other information that you feel is relevant to this form***

**Name**

**Date**

## **APPENDIX 2**

### **Useful Contacts/Support Organisations**

If you have concern that a child is being harmed as a result of abuse or neglect, you must not keep these concerns to yourself. Keeping children safe is everyone's responsibility.

You need to ensure that you speak to the appropriate organisations who can listen to and record your concern, and take appropriate action.

Following are useful numbers for making a referral and/or getting help deciding whether a referral is necessary.

If ever you believe anyone is at immediate risk of harm you can always ring the Police as an emergency on 999.

If a crime has occurred, advice needed or non-emergencies, call the Police on 101. Where possible and appropriate, preserve any evidence.

Accurately record the information ensuring you date, time and sign it

**Useful Contacts/Support Organisations  
In Leeds  
Children & young people (under 18 years old)**

Leeds Safeguarding Children Partnership

<https://www.leadsscp.org.uk/Home>

Report a child protection concern if you work with children or young people:

Call the Duty & Advice team on 0113 376 0336 (Option 3) between 9am to 5pm.

Emergency Duty Team: 0113 5350600 On weekends, Bank Holidays and all other times

## **Useful Contacts/Support Organisations In Bradford**

### **Children & young people (under 18 years old)**

To make a referral and/or get advice about whether to make a referral for children and young people:

During office hours call Children's Social Care Initial Contact Point - 01274 435600 - (8.30am - 5.00pm Monday to Thursday, 4.30pm on Friday)

At all other times, Social Services Emergency Duty Team - 01274 431010

General enquiries, please contact Children's Specialist Services  
01274 435600

<https://www.bradford.gov.uk/children-young-people-and-families/safeguarding-children/safeguarding-children/>

## **Useful Contacts/Support Organisations In Wakefield**

### Social Care Direct

To make a referral and/or get advice about whether to make a referral for both children: Social Care Direct is a free and confidential phone line, open 24 hours a day 7 days a week

Tel:

0845 8503 503

Minicom: (Type Talk calls welcome)

01924 303 450

Email: [social\\_care\\_direct@wakefield.gov.uk](mailto:social_care_direct@wakefield.gov.uk)

<https://www.wakefieldscp.org.uk/>

For all other Safeguarding Children's Board contacts: arranging meetings, enquiring about the appropriate procedure to follow, training requests etc. use the following contact details:

Wakefield District Safeguarding Children Partnership

County Hall

Bond Street

Wakefield

WF1 2QW

[wdsqb@wakefield.gov.uk](mailto:wdsqb@wakefield.gov.uk)

01924 306497

## Useful Contacts/Support Organisations In North Yorkshire

<https://www.safeguardingchildren.co.uk/>

To make a referral and/or get advice about whether to make a referral for children:

**Refer to :-** <https://www.safeguardingchildren.co.uk/about-us/worried-about-a-child/>

### **During Office Hours**

By Phone: 01609 780780

Email: [Children&families@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:Children&families@northyorks.gov.uk)

Egress: [Children&families@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:Children&families@northyorks.gov.uk)

Secure email: [Children&families@northyorks.gcsx.gov.uk](mailto:Children&families@northyorks.gcsx.gov.uk)

### **Outside Office Hours**

Emergency Duty Team (for evenings, weekends and bank holidays): 01609 780780

Where you believe there is immediate risk of significant harm to a child or young person the North Yorkshire Police should be contacted on 999.

Where you have urgent concerns regarding a child or young person's mental health, please call CAMHS crisis service. .

**Hambleton and Richmondshire** - 0300 0132000 (Option 6), 7 days a week, 24 hours

**Harrogate and Ripon** - 01423 544335, 7 days a week

**Selby and Easingwold** - 01904 615348, 7 days a week, 10am -10pm

**Scarborough and Ryedale** - 01723 346502, 7 days a week, 10am-10pm

**Whitby** - 01723 346502, 7 days a week, 24 hours

**Craven** - 01274 221181, 7 days a week, 24 hours

For all other Safeguarding Children contacts: arranging meetings, enquiring about the appropriate procedure to follow, training requests etc. use the following contact details:

North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Board

South Block,  
NYCC, County Hall,  
Racecourse Lane,  
Northallerton.

DL7 8AE

Online live chat: <https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/contact-us-live-chat> Useful  
Contacts/Support Organisations

### **In York**

<https://www.york.org.uk/workforce2014/Concerned%20about%20a%20child/concerned-about-a-child-or-young-person.htm>

**If you have a concern that a child is vulnerable or at risk of significant harm please contact the Children's Front Door:**

Phone: **01904 551900**

Email: [childrensfrontdoor@york.gov.uk](mailto:childrensfrontdoor@york.gov.uk)

Post: **The Children's Front Door, West Offices, Station Rise, York, YO1 6GA**

**Outside office hours, at weekends and on public holidays contact the emergency duty team telephone: 01609 780780**

You may also contact the Children's Front Door to speak to the **Local Area Team** practitioners about early help assessments and interventions. <http://www.york.org.uk/workforce2014/about-local-area-teams.htm>

**If you need to make a safeguarding referral about a child or young person who has been or may be hurt or neglected or who has *significant* vulnerabilities please use the **referral form****

For all other Safeguarding Children contacts: arranging meetings, enquiring about the appropriate procedure to follow, training requests etc. use the following contact details:

CHILDREN'S SERVICES TEAM

Children's Services Advice, Assessment and Early Intervention Team

*West Offices, Station Rise, York, YO1 6GA*

**Telephone:** 01904 551900

**Email:** [childrensfrontdoor@york.gov.uk](mailto:childrensfrontdoor@york.gov.uk)

## **Useful Contacts/Support Organisations In Hull**

### **Hull Safeguarding Children Partnership Board**

Midmere Centre  
Dorchester Road  
Hull

HU7 6BD

01482 379 090

Young Witness Service (direct line): 01482 379 091

Email: [hscp@hullcc.gov.uk](mailto:hscp@hullcc.gov.uk)

[If you want to discuss your concerns or need advice please contact the following numbers](#)

[Early help & safeguarding Hub \(EHASH\) on 01482 448 879 during normal office hours](#)

[Emergency Duty Team on 01482 300 304 out of normal office hours](#)

### **Confirmation of referral to the Early Help and Safeguarding Hub (EHASH)**

All telephone contacts made by professionals which result in a referral **must** be followed up by the referring agency in writing within 48 hours of the conversation using the Multi-Agency Referral form (below). You may find it helpful to also use this form as a way of recording your contact with EHASH.

## **In East Riding**

### **East Riding Safeguarding Children's Board**

Contact the Early Help and Safeguarding Hub (EHASH) to log your concern and receive advice

During office hours (Monday to Thursday 9am – 5pm, Friday 9am – 4.30pm) call 01482 395500 or email [childrens.socialcare@eastriding.gcsx.gov.uk](mailto:childrens.socialcare@eastriding.gcsx.gov.uk)

Outside office hours call the emergency duty team on 01377 241273 or email [emergency.duty.team@eastriding.gcsx.uk](mailto:emergency.duty.team@eastriding.gcsx.uk)

## **Useful Contacts/Support Organisations In Rotherham**

<http://www.rscp.org.uk/>

<http://www.rscb.org.uk/report>

If you are concerned about a child or young person you can contact the **Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)**.

Telephone: 01709 336080

MASH-Referral@rotherham.gcsx.gov.uk

### **Out of Hours**

Rotherham Children's Social Care Out of Hours Team

Tel 01709 336 080

Alternatively

Call the **Rotherham Local Safeguarding Children Board** (RLSCB) Business team:

Tel 01709 254924

[CYPs-SafeguardingBoard@rotherham.gcsx.gov.uk](mailto:CYPs-SafeguardingBoard@rotherham.gcsx.gov.uk)

### **Rotherham**

Local **Safeguarding Children** Board

1st Floor Wing B

Riverside House

Main Street

### **Rotherham**

S60 1AE

## **Other useful contacts**

### **NSPCC Child Protection Helpline**

The NSPCC Child Protection Helpline is a free 24-hour service that provides counselling, information and advice to anyone concerned about a child at risk of abuse.

Telephone: 0808 800 5000

Email: [help@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:help@nspcc.org.uk)

Web: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/what-you-can-do/report-abuse/>

Text: 88858

Textphone / Webcam (for deaf or hard-of-hearing): 18001 0808 800 5000 / SignVideo

### **ChildLine**

If you are a child or young person, for confidential advice and support from someone you can trust,

Telephone: 0800 1111

Web: [www.childline.org.uk](http://www.childline.org.uk)

## Appendix 3 Definitions of Abuse

As cited in HM Government's 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' on 5th July 2018 which replaced the guidance issued in 2015. This guidance was further updated on the 21st February 2019 to reflect how local authorities should notify the Child Safeguarding Panel.

**Keeping Children Safe in Education** revised and published on the 2nd September 2019 should be read alongside Working Together to Safeguard Children.

From 29th June 2018 Local Authorities in England must notify the national Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel within 5 working days of becoming aware of a serious incident.

They should report incidents where the local authority knows or suspects that a child has been abused or neglected and:

- The child dies (including suspected suicide) or is seriously harmed in the local authority's area;
- While normally resident in the local authority's area, the child dies or is seriously harmed outside England.

### Abuse

**A form of maltreatment of a child.** Somebody may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting harm, or by failing to act to prevent harm. Children may be abused in a family or in an institutional or community setting by those known to them or, more rarely, by others. Abuse can take place wholly online, or technology may be used to facilitate offline abuse. Children may be abused by an adult or adults, or another child or children.

### Physical Abuse

**A form of abuse which may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating or otherwise causing physical harm to a child.** Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer fabricates the symptoms of, or deliberately induces, illness in a child.

### Emotional Abuse

**The persistent emotional maltreatment of a child such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the child's emotional development.** It may involve conveying to a child that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person. It may include not giving the child opportunities to express their views, deliberately silencing them or 'making fun' of what they say or how they communicate.

It may feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children. These may include interactions that are beyond a child's developmental capability, as well as overprotection and limitation of exploration and learning, or preventing the child participating in normal social interaction.

It may involve seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another. It may involve serious bullying (including cyber bullying), causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of children.

Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment of a child, though it may occur alone.

### **Sexual Abuse**

***Involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving a high level of violence, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening.*** The activities may involve physical contact, including assault by penetration (for example, rape or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing and touching outside of clothing. They may also include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, sexual images, watching sexual activities, encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways, or grooming a child in preparation for abuse. Sexual abuse can take place online, and technology can be used to facilitate offline abuse.

Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males. Women can also commit acts of sexual abuse, as can other children.

### **Child sexual exploitation**

***Child sexual exploitation is a form of child sexual abuse.*** It occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity

- (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or
- (b) for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator.

The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual. Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology.

### **Neglect**

***The persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development.*** Neglect may occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance abuse. Once a child is born, neglect may involve a parent or carer failing to:

- a) provide adequate food, clothing and shelter (including exclusion from home or abandonment)
- b) protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger
- c) ensure adequate supervision (including the use of inadequate caregivers)
- d) ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment

It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs.

### **Extremism**

Extremism goes beyond terrorism and includes people who target the vulnerable – including the young – by seeking to sow division between communities on the basis of race, faith or denomination; justify discrimination towards women and girls; persuade others that minorities are inferior; or argue against the primacy of democracy and the rule of law in our society.

Extremism is defined in the Counter Extremism Strategy 2015 as the vocal or active opposition to our fundamental values, including the rule of law, individual liberty and the

mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. We also regard calls for the death of members of our armed forces as extremist.